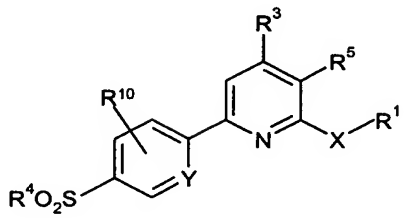
In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5, 9 and 12-13. Please amend claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10-11. Please add new claims 14-26.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen ~~or~~ and NR^2;

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH ~~or~~ and nitrogen;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3}alkylOC_{1-3}alkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl, C_{3-6}alkynyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkylC_{0-6}alkyl, C_{4-7}cycloalkyl substituted by C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{4-12}bridged cycloalkyl, $A(CR^6R^7)_n$ and $B(CR^6R^7)_n$;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6}alkyl; or

R^1 and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring ~~such as a pyrrolidine, morpholine or piperidine ring~~, or a 5-membered heteroaryl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one R^8;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-5}alkyl and C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, NH_2 and R^9CONH;

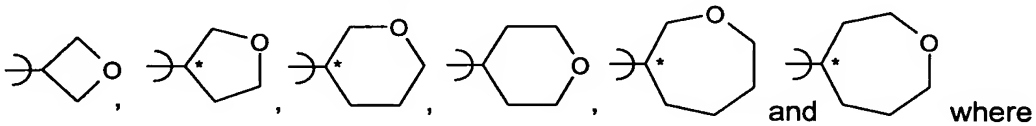
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3}alkylO_2C, halogen, cyano, $(C_{1-3}alkyl)_2NCO$, C_{1-3}alkylS and C_{1-3}alkylO_2S;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from H ~~or~~ and C_{1-6}alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^8;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and C_{1-6}alkylSO_2;

B is selected from the group consisting of



and where

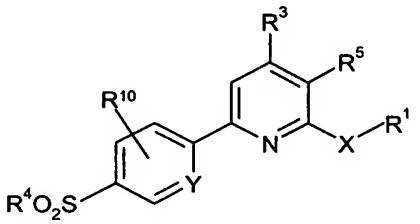
) defines the point of attachment of the ring;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl$OCOC_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCO, H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCONHC_{1-6}alkyl and C_{1-6}alkylCONHC_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and

n is 0 to 4.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ of formula (IA)



(IA)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen ~~or~~ and NR^2;

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH ~~or~~ and nitrogen;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3}alkylOC_{1-3}alkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl, C_{3-6}alkynyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkylC_{0-6}alkyl, C_{4-12}bridged cycloalkyl, $A(CR^6R^7)_n$ and $B(CR^6R^7)_n$;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6}alkyl; or

R^1 and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring ~~such as a pyrrolidine, morpholine or piperidine ring~~;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-5}alkyl and C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, NH_2 and R^9CONH;

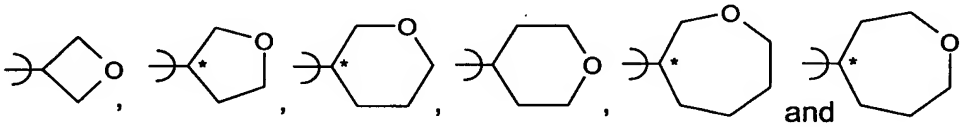
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, halogen, cyano, $(C_{1-3}alkyl)_2NCO$, $C_{1-3}alkylS$ and $C_{1-3}alkylO_2S$;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from H or C_{1-6}alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^8;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$;

B is selected from the group consisting of



and where

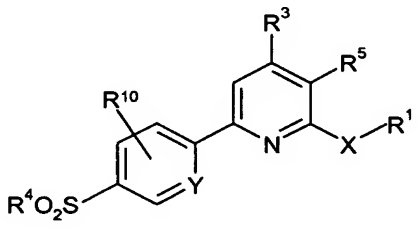
) defines the point of attachment of the ring;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}$alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl, $C_{1-6}alkylOCOC_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCO, H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl, $C_{1-6}alkylOCONHC_{1-6}$alkyl and $C_{1-6}alkylCONHC_{1-6}$alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and

n is 0 to 4.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ of formula (IC)



(IC)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen ~~or~~ and NR^2;

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH ~~or~~ and nitrogen;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3}alkylOC_{1-3}alkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl, C_{3-6}alkynyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkylC_{0-6}alkyl, C_{4-7}cycloalkyl substituted by C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{4-12}bridged cycloalkyl, $A(CR^6R^7)_n$ and $B(CR^6R^7)_n$;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6}alkyl; or

R^1 and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring ~~such as a pyrrolidine, morpholine or piperidine ring~~, or a 5-membered heteroaryl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one R^8;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-5}alkyl and C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, NH_2 and R^9CONH;

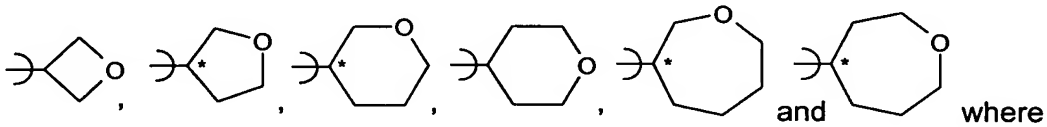
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3}alkylO_2C, halogen, cyano, $(C_{1-3}alkyl)_2NCO$, C_{1-3}alkylS and C_{1-3}alkylO_2S;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from H or C_{1-6}alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^8;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and C_{1-6}alkylSO_2;

B is selected from the group consisting of



and where

) defines the point of attachment of the ring;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl$OCOC_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCO, H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl$OCONHC_{1-6}$alkyl and

C_{1-6}alkylCONHC_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and

n is 1 to 4.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

X is oxygen;

Y is CH;

R^1 is $A(CR^6R^7)_n$;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-5}alkyl and C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

R^4 is C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{1-3}alkylO_2C, halogen, and C_{1-3}alkylS;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^8;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, and C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more F;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen; and

n is 0.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~of formula (I)~~ selected from the group consisting of:

4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-N-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

4-methyl-N-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;N-[(1,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-4-methyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(1,3-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-4-methyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

4-(6-{[(1,3-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]amino}-4-ethyl-2-pyridinyl)benzenesulfonamide;

N-[(1,3-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(1,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

4-{4-methyl-6-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)amino]-2-pyridinyl}benzenesulfonamide;

4-methyl-N-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

N-(cyclohexylmethyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-cyclohexyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-6-[(2-pyridinylmethyl)oxy]-4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine;

4-methyl-N-[(3-methyl-4-isoxazolyl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-N-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-cycloheptyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-(cis-4-methylcyclohexyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-(1-ethylpropyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

4-methyl-N-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

N-(cyclopentylmethyl)-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine;

N-[(1-ethyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl)methyl]-4-methyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-[(2-pyridinylmethyl)amino]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

4-ethyl-2-{[(5-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]amino}-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

4-ethyl-2-{[(6-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]amino}-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

4-ethyl-2-{[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]amino}-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-{[(4-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)methyl]amino}-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

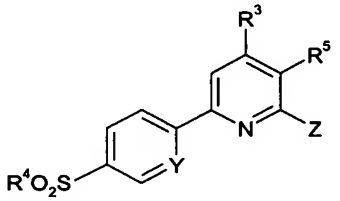
4-ethyl-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-[(2-pyridinylmethyl)oxy]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

4-ethyl-N-[(1-ethyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl)methyl]-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-pyridinamine;

4-ethyl-2-{[(6-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]oxy}-6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-pyridinecarbonitrile; and

6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-N-[(1-methyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl)methyl]-4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinamine.

7. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of formula (I)~~ as defined in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~ which comprises reacting a compound R^1XH of formula (II), or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

where X is as defined and Z is halogen or a sulfonate, and thereafter and if necessary, interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I), and/or deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I).

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound ~~of formula (I)~~ as ~~defined in any of claims~~ claimed in claim 1 ~~to 6~~ in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~a human or~~ an animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~of formula (I)~~ as ~~defined in any of claims~~ claimed in claim 1 ~~to 6~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~a human or~~ an animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~of formula (I) as defined in any of claims~~ as claimed in claim 1 ~~to 6~~.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said animal is a human.

15. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said animal is a human.

16. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is selected from the group consisting of chronic and acute pain; fever; rheumatic fever; symptoms associated with influenza or common cold; lower back and neck pain; headache; toothache; sprains and strains; myositis; sympathetically maintained pain; synovitis; arthritis; rheumatoid arthritis; degenerative joint diseases; osteoarthritis; gout and ankylosing spondylitis; tendinitis; bursitis; psoriasis; eczema; burns; dermatitis; sports injuries; injuries arising from surgical and dental procedures; neuropathic pain; diabetic neuropathy; sciatica; non-specific lower back pain; multiple sclerosis pain; fibromyalgia; HIV-related neuropathy; neuralgia, such as post-herpetic neuralgia; trigeminal neuralgia; pain resulting from physical trauma, amputation, cancer, toxins or chronic inflammatory conditions; colonic cancer; prostate cancer; stroke; epilepsy and epileptic seizures; dysmenorrhoea;

premature labour; inflammatory liver disease; asthma; allergic rhinitis; respiratory distress syndrome; inflammatory bowel disease; Crohn's disease; gastritis; irritable bowel syndrome; ulcerative colitis; inflammation in vascular disease, migraine, periarteritis nodosa, thyroiditis, aplastic anaemia, Hodgkin's disease, sclerodoma, type I diabetes, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, sorcoidosis, nephrotic syndrome, Bechet's syndrome, polymyositis, gingivitis, conjunctivitis and myocardial ischemia; retinitis; retinopathies; uveitis; acute injury to the eye tissue; senile dementia; Alzheimer's disease; Pick's disease; Huntington's chorea; Parkinson's disease; Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; vascular dementia; dementia associated with intracranial space occupying lesions, trauma, HIV infection, metabolism, toxins, anoxia and vitamin deficiency; mild cognitive impairment associated with ageing; ileus; gastroesophageal reflux disease; gastroparesis; non-ulcerative dyspepsia and non-cardiac chest pain.

17. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is rheumatoid arthritis.

18. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is osteoarthritis.

19. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is chronic or acute pain.

20. (New)The method according to claim 10, wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is neuropathic pain.

21. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is post-herpetic neuralgia.

22. (New) The method according to claim 10 wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is non-specific lower back pain.

23. (New) The method according to claim 10 wherein said condition which is mediated by COX-2 is dysmenorrhoea.

24. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 2 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

25. (New) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 2.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said animal is a human.